United Nations CRC/C/PRK/CO/5

Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child

Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the fifth periodic report of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (CRC/C/PRK/5) at its 2236th and 2237th meetings (see CRC/C/SR.2236 and 2237), held on 20 September 2017, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2251st meeting, held on 29 September 2017.

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the fifth periodic report of the State party and the written replies to the list of issues (CRC/C/PRK/Q/5/Add.1), which allowed for a better understanding of the situation of children's rights in the State party. The Committee expresses appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the multisectoral delegation of the State party.

II. Follow-up measures taken and progress achieved by the State party

3. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved by the State party in several areas, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 10 November 2016, and with regard to universal education and decreasing child and maternal mortality.

III. Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Convention

4. **The Committee notes that the effects of the economic sanctions mentioned by the delegation of the State party are reflected in the economic and social situation in the country and are having repercussions on children's enjoyment of their rights.**

IV. Main areas of concern and recommendations

5. The Committee reminds the State party of the indivisibility and interdependence of all the rights enshrined in the Convention and emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. The Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the recommendations concerning the following areas, in respect of which urgent measures must be taken: data collection (para. 10), torture

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and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment (para. 26), children deprived of a family environment (para. 33), nutrition (para. 42), education and its aims (paras. 46 and 48) and child labour (para. 55).

A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (6))

Legislation

6. **The Committee welcomes the adoption in 2010 of the Act on the Protection of the Rights of the Child and recommends that the State party make the text of the Act and information regarding its implementation publicly available, and seek technical cooperation from, among others, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to assist with its implementation and share international best practices and lessons learned.**

Comprehensive policy and strategy

7. **The Committee welcomes the adoption of the National Plan of Action for the Well-Being of Children (2011-2020) and recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Include protection from violence, exploitation and poverty in the plan;**

(b) **Define clearly the government entity responsible for the coordination of its implementation;**

(c) **Make information regarding the progress made on its implementation public and regularly available;**

(d) **Ensure that sufficient human, technical and financial resources are provided for the rights of children;**

(e) **Strengthen the practice of multi-agency coordination with the United Nations and other partners, following the model used for the preparation of the National Disaster Response Plan.**

Allocation of resources

8. **The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on resources allocated to public health and education and, with reference to its general comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights, recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Strengthen economic mechanisms, programmes and policies that can protect the budget allocations to children's rights and needs over time, including in situations of increased economic hardship, and regularly review and further specify how the five-year economic strategy can be used towards this end;**

(b) **Substantially increase the allocations in the health, education and social sectors to adequate levels, ensuring equitable distribution among urban and rural areas;**

(c) **Define budgetary lines for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations that may require affirmative social measures and make sure that those budgetary lines are protected even in situations of economic scarcity, natural disasters or other emergencies.**

Data collection

9. The Committee notes the State party's recent efforts on data collection. However, it remains concerned about the overall absence of published information and the limited availability of official data, which prevents the systematic and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved and assessment of the impact of policies adopted with regard to children. The Committee is seriously concerned about the lack of availability of data disaggregated by age, gender and location on child poverty, violence, abuse and

neglect, stateless children, children with disabilities, adolescents, children deprived of a family environment, juvenile justice, children in street situations, education, health and the impact of climate change and disasters on children.

10. **With reference to its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation of the Convention, the Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Strengthen its efforts to improve its data-collection system. The data should cover all areas of the Convention, include all children under 18 years of age, and be disaggregated as described above to facilitate analysis on the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability;**

(b) **Ensure that the data and indicators are available and shared among the ministries concerned and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the Convention;**

(c) **Take into account the conceptual and methodological framework set out in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) entitled *Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation*;**

(d) **Strengthen its technical cooperation with, among others, UNICEF, for the collection and analysis of information.**

Independent monitoring

11. **The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on the existence of complaints departments, complaints boxes and the required confidentiality from complaints officers. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2002) on the role of independent human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Take measures to expeditiously establish an independent mechanism for monitoring children's rights that is able to receive, investigate and address complaints by children in a child-sensitive manner;**

(b) **Ensure the independence of such a monitoring mechanism, including with regard to its funding, mandate and immunities, so as to ensure its full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);**

(c) **Seek technical cooperation from, among others, OHCHR, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**

Dissemination, awareness-raising and training

12. **The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the measures taken to develop and implement awareness-raising programmes and dissemination activities to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are widely known by the general public, particularly parents, caregivers, teachers, youth workers and children themselves. It also recommends that the State party carry out systematic training for all professional groups working for and with children on their responsibilities under the Convention.**

Cooperation with civil society

13. **The Committee recalls its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, paras. 13 and 14), and encourages the State party to create an enabling environment for the development of an independent civil society and to systematically involve organizations working on children's rights in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes related to children's rights.**

B. Definition of the child (art. 1)

14. **The Committee notes that the 2014 Act on the Protection of the Rights of the Child defines a child as a person under 16 and that a child will be defined as a person up to the age of 18 when the new 12-year compulsory education system introduced in 2014 is fully implemented in 2026. The Committee urges the State party to promptly revise the Act on the Protection of the Rights of the Child to ensure the immediate protection of all children below the age of 18 years, as defined in article 1 of the Convention.**

C. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)

Non-discrimination

15. **The Committee recalls it previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 20) and recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to monitor the implementation of the legal provisions against discrimination, in particular article 65 of the Constitution and article 3 of the Act on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, in compliance with article 2 of the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Take prompt measures to end discrimination against children based on the social status or political views of their parents;**

(b) **Make information regularly available on the implementation of anti-discrimination laws, particularly regarding girls, children in rural and remote areas, children of non-nationals and children with disabilities.**

Best interests of the child

16. **With reference to its general comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, particularly to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their parents and their placement in residential care institutions, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to or have an impact on children;**

(b) **Develop procedures and criteria to guide all relevant persons in authority in determining the best interests of the child in every area and in giving them due weight as a primary consideration;**

(c) **Establish compulsory processes for ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments on children's rights of all government policies and practices, including in the area of security.**

Right to life, survival and development

17. **The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to address the root causes of infant and child mortality, including social and economic deprivation and inequality, child malnutrition leading to stunting and wasting, and instances of child labour involving strenuous physical and mental efforts, which affect the healthy development of children.**

Respect for the views of the child

18. **The Committee notes the State party's efforts to involve children in matters related to their education and in celebration of the Convention. With reference to its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State party conduct research to identify the issues that are most important to children and the mechanisms available to them to participate in and**

influence all matters concerning children in individual decisions at the local and national levels and, based on those findings, develop guidance to ensure that children's views are effectively taken into account.

D. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8 and 13-17)

Birth registration and nationality

19. **The Committee notes that children in the State party are guaranteed civil registration and access to nationality. The Committee recommends that the State party review its bilateral agreements to ensure that children born to mothers who are citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea residing outside the territory of the State party have access to birth registration and nationality without the children or their mothers being forcibly returned to the State party's territory.**

Freedom of expression

20. **The Committee recommends that the State party promote children's freedom of expression and diversity of views, and guarantee the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds either orally, in writing or in print, or through any other media, including the Internet.**

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

21. **The Committee reiterates its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 30) and recommends that the State party respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion by taking effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of persecution on the grounds of religion or belief and by promoting religious tolerance and dialogue in society. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that the application of limitations to the right to freedom of religion is proportional and not arbitrary.**

Freedom of association and peaceful assembly

22. **The Committee recommends that the State party take further measures to promote children's rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly in accordance with their interests and in line with article 15 of the Convention.**

Right to privacy

23. **The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to protect children's right to privacy in matters related to justice and health. It recommends that the State party take the measures necessary to implement the relevant laws in practice and to take measures appropriate to address and redress any violations.**

Access to appropriate information

24. **The Committee urges the State party to ensure that children have access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of the rights of the child and the child's social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health, including promoting access to digital forms of media, in accordance with article 17 of the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party review its legislation, in particular article 185 of the Criminal Code, to decriminalize children's access to what is considered "hostile broadcasting and collection, keeping and distribution of enemy propaganda".**

E. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39)

Torture and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment

25. The Committee notes the State party's current legal provisions regarding torture in the Code of Criminal Procedure and in the Act on the Protection of the Rights of the Child. However, it remains concerned that these provisions do not adequately guarantee the right to freedom from torture and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, in law and in practice, particularly for children who are forced to return to the State party, children living in street situations, and children in detention facilities, including political prison camps.

26. **With reference to its general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, and target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recalls its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 32) and urges the State party to:**

(a) **Unequivocally prohibit, in law and in practice, the torture and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment of children, including children who are forced to return to the State party, and establish appropriate sanctions against perpetrators;**

(b) **Improve reporting mechanisms and promptly investigate and prosecute all cases of torture and ill-treatment of children;**

(c) **Ensure that alleged perpetrators are suspended while they are under investigation, that they are punished if convicted, and that court proceedings and sentences are publicized;**

(d) **Train law enforcement personnel on child rights issues;**

(e) **Take all appropriate measures to ensure the physical and psychological recovery and social integration of child victims of torture and/or ill-treatment.**

Corporal punishment

27. **With reference to its general comment No. 8 (2006) on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment, the Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Promptly review its legislation to unequivocally prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings, including the home, child-related institutions and all types of penal institutions, including political prison camps;**

(b) **Ensure that the ban on corporal punishment in all educational facilities is strictly implemented and monitored;**

(c) **Ensure that corporal punishment is not an element of the "social education" measures applicable to children aged 15-17 and that children under 18 are not subjected to adult criminal sanctions under the Criminal Code that may include or amount to corporal punishment;**

(d) **Strengthen the measures to promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline among parents and educational staff.**

Violence, abuse and neglect

28. **With reference to its general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, and taking note of target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Amend its legislation in order to criminalize the sexual abuse of all children, including boys, by any person;**

(b) **Take prompt measures to assess the situation of children in residential facilities in border regions, ensuring full respect for the rights of the child, investigate**

any acts of violence against these children, and prosecute and punish any perpetrators of such acts, including sexual abuse;

(c) **Conduct a comprehensive study on violence, abuse and neglect of children to assess the extent, causes and nature of such violence, paying attention to the gender dimension of violence, and cases of sexual abuse of girls in the context of transactional sex and prostitution;**

(d) **Formulate a comprehensive strategy to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, including by addressing its root causes;**

(e) **Explore new ways for children to participate in developing measures to prevent violence against them;**

(f) **Establish a national database on all cases of violence against children to enable monitoring, reporting and analysis;**

(g) **Strengthen training activities for relevant professionals to provide adequate support to child victims of violence, abuse and neglect;**

(h) **Seek cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and other relevant United Nations experts and bodies.**

Helplines

29. **The Committee recommends that the State party establish a three-digit toll-free 24-hour helpline available for all children at the national level.**

F. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (1) and (2), 20, 21, 25 and 27 (4))

Family environment

30. **The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to support families and recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Strengthen its efforts to promote the common responsibilities of parents and to involve fathers continuously in their children's education and development;**

(b) **Assist parents in their child-rearing in a supportive and constructive manner without undue pressure and provide support and counselling to them to solve family conflicts in a manner that respects their privacy;**

(c) **Review the legislation regarding divorce to ensure that custody decisions are based on the principle of the best interests of the child;**

(d) **Ensure that children are separated from their parents only as a last resort and when it is in the best interests of the child.**

31. **The Committee also recommends that the State party take measures to allow and promote regular communication and the development of a personal relationship between the child and his or her parents and family members who do not reside in its territory.**

Children deprived of a family environment

32. While noting the measures taken by the State party to improve the living conditions of children in institutional care, the Committee regrets that its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 37) remained largely unaddressed. The Committee remains concerned about:

(a) The significant number of children who continue to be placed in institutions, from birth to the age of 16 years, and the construction of new baby homes and orphanages, indicating an increasing trend of institutionalization, with no clear guidelines on the criteria for their placement;

(b) The lack of information on individual follow-up to regularly review children's institutionalization and avoid the lasting consequences of long-term institutionalization;

(c) The existence of separate schools for children living in institutions and the campus-like living conditions, which hinder reintegration in society;

(d) The limited and anecdotal information provided on other forms of alternative care;

(e) The policy of placing children with disabilities in residential institutional care.

33. **Drawing the State party's attention to the United Nations Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and recalling its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 37), the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Undertake a study to identify why children are placed in public care, with a view to developing family-based alternatives, and support children in single-parent families;**

(b) **Establish criteria and safeguards, based on the needs, views and best interests of the child, for determining whether the child, particularly a child with disabilities, should be placed in public care. The fact that his or her parents divorce should not be considered a ground to place a child in an institution;**

(c) **Develop and implement procedures for the periodic review of the placement of children in institutions and foster care, and monitor the quality of care therein, including by providing accessible mechanisms for reporting and remedying ill-treatment of children;**

(d) **Review the policy of establishing campus-like institutions with a view to facilitating the regular interaction and reintegration of children in institutions into society;**

(e) **Seek technical cooperation in this respect from, among others, UNICEF, regarding experiences, best practices and lessons learned in deinstitutionalization.**

Adoption

34. **The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation on adoption to ensure that the best interests of the child are the paramount consideration, and remove the current criteria on the political views of the prospective adoptive parents. The Committee recommends that the State party consider acceding to the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.**

Children of detained parents

35. **The Committee urges the State party to ensure that children are not in any way punished, sanctioned or detained for their parents' crimes, and that children have regular contact with their detained parents if they so wish, including when parents are detained in political prison camps.**

G. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (1)-(3) and 33)

Children with disabilities

36. **The Committee welcomes the State party's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its amendment in November 2013 of the Act on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the measures taken to promote the education and health, including through sports, of children with disabilities. With reference to its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities,**

and Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 11, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the measures taken and:

(a) Adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities;

(b) Take account of all children under the age of 18, including those under the age of 5, in the collection of disaggregated data on children with disabilities, and develop an efficient system for diagnosing disability, with a view to putting in place appropriate policies and programmes for children with disabilities;

(c) Set up comprehensive measures to develop inclusive education and ensure that inclusive education is progressively prioritized over the placement of children in specialized institutions and classes, including for children with hearing and visual impairments;

(d) Train and assign specialized teachers and professionals in inclusive classes providing individual support for children's learning requirements;

(e) Review the nine-year curriculum for children with disabilities to align it with the 12-year mandatory system;

(f) Provide support to parents and families of children with disabilities to enable them to adequately care for these children.

Health and health services

37. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party regarding children's health and, with reference to its general comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, and targets 3.2 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its efforts to reduce infant, child and maternal mortality rates, particularly in the provinces and rural areas;

(b) Ensure that free or affordable medicine is available to all children throughout the territory, paying particular attention to rural and remote areas;

(c) Ensure adequate and continuous investment in health-related infrastructure and the training of health personnel;

(d) Consider the OHCHR technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age (A/HRC/27/31);

(e) Seek financial and technical assistance from UNICEF and the World Health Organization, among others, in this regard.

Mental health

38. Recalling its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 50), the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to promote the availability of mental health services to children, taking into consideration their developmental needs.

Adolescent health

39. While noting that the State party has included adolescent health issues in the 2011-2015 reproductive and maternal health strategies, the Committee regrets the lack of information about any new plans that have been adopted and about the implementation of its previous recommendations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, paras. 47-48). With reference to its general comment No. 4 (2003) on adolescent health and development in the context of the Convention, and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Conduct a comprehensive study to understand the nature and extent of adolescent health problems, with the full involvement of adolescent girls and boys;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents, which should include sexual and reproductive health as part of the mandatory school curriculum and target both girls and boys;

(c) Ensure that all adolescents throughout the country have access to reproductive health services that are youth-sensitive and confidential.

HIV/AIDS

40. **The Committee recommends that the State party make information available to adolescents on HIV/AIDS protection measures, and seek technical support from UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the United Nations Population Fund.**

Nutrition

41. While noting the adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan to Control Child and Maternal Malnutrition (2014-2018), the Committee remains seriously concerned about:

(a) The very high prevalence of undernourishment in the State party, affecting over 40 per cent of the population, according to a 2015 public report of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which is a key underlying cause of child and maternal mortality;

(b) A 2012 nutrition survey showing that 28 per cent of children under 5 years of age in the State party were suffering from stunting and 4 per cent were suffering from wasting, which could be conservative estimates.

42. **Taking note of targets 2.1 and 2.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) Promptly conduct an independent review of the National Strategy and Action Plan to Control Child and Maternal Malnutrition with a view to identifying key actions needed to quickly and substantially decrease children's and mothers' undernourishment;

(b) Systematically collect data on food security and nutrition for children to identify the root causes of child food insecurity and malnutrition and regularly publish up-to-date information on child stunting and wasting;

(c) Systematically monitor and assess the effectiveness of the public food distribution system on child food security and nutrition, including the frequency, quality and nutritional value of the food supplied through the public system;

(d) Seek technical assistance from UNICEF and FAO.

Impact of climate change on the rights of the child

43. **The Committee welcomes the State party's cooperation with the United Nations country team on developing integrated responses to climate change issues. The Committee draws attention to target 13.b of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:**

(a) In cases of climate-related emergencies that disrupt access to food, such as floods and droughts, provide children with immediate access to treatment for malnutrition;

(b) Increase children's awareness of and preparedness for climate change and natural disasters by incorporating them into the school curriculum and teachers' training programmes;

(c) Continue to cooperate with, among others, UNICEF and the World Food Programme, and pay particular attention to child rights issues in disaster risk reduction, response management and preparedness initiatives.

Standard of living

44. **The Committee welcomes the State party's 2016 intersectoral initiative to integrate water, sanitation and nutrition. Drawing attention to target 6.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party prioritize water, sanitation and nutrition interventions and participate in South-South learning exchanges on technology and use of gravity-fed water systems. The Committee also recommends that the State party promote and facilitate people's livelihood opportunities.**

H. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28-31)

Education, including vocational training and guidance

45. The Committee notes the adoption of the Act on General Secondary Education, in 2011, the Ordinance on the Enforcement of Universal 12-year Compulsory Education, in 2012, and the Education Strategy (2015-2032), in 2014. The Committee, however, remains seriously concerned about consistent reports of:

(a) Children continuing to spend a considerable amount of the time allocated to education on performing different types of labour, including agriculture and construction projects that sometimes involve massive mobilization for periods of one month at a time, and cases of students spending their afternoons performing tasks for teachers, such as working in fields and transporting firewood;

(b) Discrimination against students based on their social status and their parents' political views, which defines the schools and type of education to which children have access and the treatment they receive from teachers;

(c) The burden faced by children being required to pay informal school fees either by contributing materials or money, which is especially difficult for children from economically deprived families who miss school when they are unable to comply with these demands;

(d) Children being victims of verbal and physical punishment and discrimination by teachers when they are unable to achieve an "economic assignment" or to participate in a mass mobilization;

(e) The number of children who do not attend school because of economic difficulties or because their parents are sick;

(f) The continuing limited resources allocated to maintaining and investing in school infrastructure and teaching and learning materials, particularly outside the capital.

46. **With reference to its general comment No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education, and taking note of Sustainable Development Goal 4, the Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Ensure that children are not required to perform labour tasks that interfere with their learning, their rights to rest and leisure and their physical and mental well-being;**

(b) **Take prompt measures to end discrimination against children based on their social status or their parents' political views in terms of access to schools, type of education and treatment by educational staff;**

(c) **Take prompt measures to effectively ban schools from requesting contributions in the form of fees, food and materials;**

(d) **Promptly strengthen monitoring systems in schools to ensure that teachers do not ill-treat or punish students, implement in practice the ban on corporal punishment, and investigate and discipline school staff who fail to respect the child's right to physical and mental integrity;**

(e) Prevent children from dropping out of school due to economic difficulties;

(f) Promote gender equality between girls and boys at all levels of the education system, including the freedom for girls and boys to choose their courses based on their interests;

(g) Take the measures necessary to continuously invest in the quality and infrastructure of education, with particular emphasis on rural and remote areas;

(h) Take measures to promote child-friendly schools, based on the principles of creating healthy and protective environments for learning, inclusiveness and gender-sensitivity and establishing partnerships between schools and the community, to empower children and allow them to develop in a holistic manner;

(i) Make information on learning outcomes at all levels of education available regularly;

(j) Seek technical cooperation from, among others, UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the implementation of these recommendations.

Aims of education

47. The Committee is concerned about the extensive politicization of teaching materials and the curriculum, with a strong focus on ideological indoctrination.

48. **With reference to its general comment No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the school curriculum and teaching materials give priority to standard academic subjects and that education supports the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance and friendship among all peoples, in accordance with article 29 (1) (d) of the Convention. The Committee recommends that the State party emphasize methods of peaceful resolution of conflict in its curricula for peace education for children of all ages, and seek technical assistance from UNICEF and UNESCO in this regard.**

Early childhood development

49. **Taking note of target 4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals on ensuring that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure an adequate ratio of caregiver-to-child in nurseries and kindergartens to provide quality care and the critical psychosocial support and stimulation needed, and ensure access to appropriate food and nutrition and water and sanitation facilities.**

Human rights education

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party develop a national plan of action for human rights education, as recommended in the framework of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and incorporate human rights and children's rights into the school curriculum at all levels.**

Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities

51. **The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to invest and promote sport among children and, with reference to its general comment No. 17 (2013) on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts, recommends that the State party take measures to guarantee that children enjoy their right to rest and leisure and to engage in play and the recreational activities of their choice and that are appropriate to the age of the child. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the right of the child to obtain insights into their own and other peoples' cultures to broaden the range of cultural and artistic expressions available to children.**

I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 (b)-(d) and 38-40)

Returnee children

52. **The Committee urges the State party to provide all the necessary protection to returnee children and children of repatriated women who are citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in particular their right to life. The Committee recommends that the State party consider acceding to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

Children in armed conflicts

53. **While noting that the State party is still at the stage of armistice, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the implementation of its previous recommendations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 59) and urges the State party to:**

(a) **Prioritize the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, with due consideration for the best interests of the child, in efforts to negotiate peace agreements;**

(b) **Take measures to prevent the early militarization of children, particularly boys, and to prevent the recruitment of children under 18 years of age.**

Economic exploitation, including child labour

54. While noting that national legislation prohibits child labour and the State party's position that child labour has been abolished as children are required to attend only three weeks per year of "school practice", the Committee remains seriously concerned about information on children being requested to perform extensive labour tasks that interfere with their education, physical and mental development and well-being. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

(a) The fact that the State party's labour laws do not prohibit harmful or hazardous work for children under age 18;

(b) Children being requested to volunteer extensive periods of their day to work on farms and in mines, collect wood in the forests, weed in neighbourhoods and local towns, repair railroads, clean statues and participate in forestation initiatives and construction projects (referred to as "economic assignments"), which interferes with their rights to education, health, rest and leisure, and the practice of exempting children from these tasks in exchange for money;

(c) Children being requested to participate in mass agricultural mobilizations, with long working hours per day and occasionally for one month at a time, and their being away from their families for that period;

(d) The practice of accepting children aged 16 and 17 to *dolgyeoldae* (military-style construction youth brigades) for 10-year periods, which entail long working hours and heavy physical work, and curtail children's access to education.

55. **Recalling its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 61), and with reference to target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Amend its labour and child-related legislation to explicitly prohibit the employment of children under 18 in harmful or hazardous work in the formal and informal sectors;**

(b) **Take prompt measures to ensure that children are not requested to perform "economic assignments" as part of their education and ensure that all children are treated equally in this regard, independently of their economic situation;**

(c) **Ensure that children are not forced to participate in mass agricultural mobilizations and put in place clear regulations on minimum age and limits on working hours for those who choose to participate;**

(d) **Ban the practice of assigning children under the age of 18 to *dolgyeokdae* and provide all children with equal opportunities to further their education;**

(e) **Consider joining the International Labour Organization (ILO) with a view to ratifying the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and seek technical assistance from the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of the ILO in this regard.**

Children in street situations

56. **The Committee notes the information provided by the State party during the dialogue that there are no children in street situations (*kotjebi*) but remains concerned about children who migrate to cities due to poverty and neglect and are forcibly returned to their place of origin where they may face further abuse and forced institutionalization. With reference to its general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Assess the number of children living and/or working on the streets, and conduct a study on the root causes of their situations;**

(b) **Ensure that support provided to children in street situations, particularly reintegration in the family or placement in alternative care, fully respects the child's best interests and gives due weight to their autonomous views in accordance with their age and maturity.**

Sale, trafficking and abduction

57. **The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to strengthen international cooperation to fight trafficking and abduction and, recalling its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 69), urges the State party to ensure that trafficked and abducted children are protected as victims and not criminalized, and are provided with adequate recovery and social reintegration services. The Committee recommends that the State party consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Supress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.**

Administration of juvenile justice

58. **The Committee notes the information provided by the State party regarding the use of social education as a correctional measure for children between the ages of 14 and 17, but regrets the insufficient information on what it involves in practice. With reference to its general comment No. 10 (2007) on children's rights in juvenile justice, the Committee urges the State party to bring its juvenile justice system fully into accordance with the Convention and, in particular, to:**

(a) **Establish a specialized juvenile justice system and procedures, designate specialized judges and prosecutors and ensure that the specialized judges receive appropriate education and training;**

(b) **Ensure free representation by qualified and independent lawyers for children in conflict with the law at an early stage of the procedure and throughout the legal proceedings, including during the execution of social education measures;**

(c) **When detention is unavoidable, ensure that it is for the shortest possible period of time, that it is reviewed on a regular basis with a view to its withdrawal, that children are not detained together with adults and that detention conditions are compliant with international standards, including with regard to access to education and health services;**

(d) Establish an independent child-sensitive and accessible system for the reception and processing of complaints by children, investigate all complaints and prosecute and punish law enforcement personnel found guilty of perpetrating violations.

Child victims and witnesses of crime

59. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all child victims and witnesses of crime, including child victims and witnesses of economic exploitation, abduction and trafficking, are provided with the protection required by the Convention, and that the State party fully take into account the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that the Act on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, and all other relevant laws, include measures for the physical and psychological recovery of child victims.

J. Ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention

60. The Committee recommends that the State party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children's rights, ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on a communications procedure.

K. Ratification of international human rights instruments

61. The Committee recommends that the State party, to further strengthen the fulfilment of children's rights, consider ratifying the following core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party:

(a) The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

(b) The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

(c) The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

(d) The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

62. The Committee urges the State party to fulfil its reporting obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as its initial report is overdue as of 10 December 2016.

L. Cooperation with regional bodies

63. The Committee recommends that the State party cooperate, among others, with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.

IV. Implementation and reporting

A. Follow-up and dissemination

64. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure that the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations are fully implemented. The Committee also recommends that the fifth periodic report,

the written replies to the list of issues and the present concluding observations be made widely available in the languages of the country.

B. National mechanism for reporting and follow-up

65. **The Committee welcomes the creation in April 2015 of the National Committee for the Implementation of the International Human Rights Treaties. It recommends that the State party provide the National Committee with an adequate mandate for reporting and follow-up as a standing government structure to coordinate and prepare reports to and engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as with coordinating and tracking national follow-up to and implementation of the treaty obligations and the recommendations and decisions emanating from such mechanisms. The Committee emphasizes that such a structure should be adequately and continuously supported by dedicated staff and should have the capacity to consult systematically with civil society.**

C. Next report

66. **The Committee invites the State party to submit its combined sixth and seventh periodic reports by 20 October 2022 and to include therein information on the follow-up to the present concluding observations. The report should be in compliance with the Committee's harmonized treaty-specific reporting guidelines adopted on 31 January 2014 (CRC/C/58/Rev.3) and should not exceed 21,200 words (see General Assembly resolution 68/268, para. 16). In the event that a report exceeding the established word limit is submitted, the State party will be asked to shorten the report in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution. If the State party is not in a position to review and resubmit the report, translation thereof for the purposes of consideration by the treaty body cannot be guaranteed.**

67. **The Committee also invites the State party to submit an updated core document, not exceeding 42,400 words, in accordance with the requirements for the common core document contained in the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents (see HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I) and paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 68/268.**

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List of issues in relation to the fifth periodic report of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information (10,700 words maximum), if possible before 16 June 2017. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Convention during the dialogue with the State party.

Part I

1. Please inform the Committee on progress made in developing and implementing a comprehensive policy and strategy to give effect to the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child of 2010. Please also inform the Committee on the progress achieved by the National Programme of Action for the Well-being of Children, its current status and whether any new policy or programme of action exists. Please provide information on the introduction of resource tracking from a child-rights perspective (see CRC/C/PRK/4, para. 16).

2. Please provide information on any action taken, and any results thereof, to develop a comprehensive system for the collection of data on the implementation of the Convention covering all children below 18 years of age and disaggregated by age, sex, nationality, area of residence (urban or rural) and disability. Data should also be collected on groups of children in vulnerable situations, such as children living in institutions, children in street situations and children in labour programmes.

3. Please provide information on any measures taken, and any challenges faced, with regard to establishing an independent, child-friendly monitoring mechanism, such as an ombudsperson for children. With reference to the State party report, please provide detailed information on how existing procedures for receiving complaints from children are independent, confidential, accessible and child-friendly (see CRC/C/PRK/4, para. 58).

4. Please provide information on measures taken to guarantee to all children the right to non-discrimination in all aspects, irrespective of their family situation and social background, including children of non-Korean parents living in the State party.

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Please recycle

5. With reference to the Committee's previous recommendations (see CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 32), please provide information on, among other things, the adoption of legislation and other measures prohibiting children from being subjected to torture, establishing appropriate sanctions against perpetrators and ensuring the physical and psychological recovery of child victims. Please inform the Committee on measures taken to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.

6. Please inform the Committee about childcare services available to children of unemployed mothers. Please provide information on measures taken to protect children's right to family life, promote foster care, decrease the number of children placed in institutions and guarantee periodic reviews of placements.

7. Please provide information on the measures taken to address the Committee's previous recommendations on abuse and neglect (see CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 41), namely that the State party undertake a study on abuse and neglect in all settings, reinforce mechanisms for monitoring, train relevant personnel, carry out public education campaigns, ensure services to victims and establish a toll-free helpline for children. Please inform the Committee on the applicable legislation criminalizing the sexual abuse of boys.

8. Please provide detailed information on whether the 20 hours allotted for field practice are weekly, monthly or per school year and the measures taken to ensure that school staff and State officials do not require students to carry out labour activities in addition. Please inform the Committee on how human rights education and the rights of the child have been integrated into the school curriculum at the primary and secondary levels.

9. Please provide information on the implementation of the Committee's previous recommendations regarding child labour (see CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 61) beyond the applicable legal framework. Please provide information on the criteria used to assign children who are 16 and 17 years old to *dolgyeokdae* (labour brigades), whether they have the option to refuse and how an adequate standard of living is ensured. Please also inform the Committee on the measures taken to respect the right to rest and leisure of all children.

10. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that children under the age of 18 years are not subjected to punishment for leaving the territory of the State party without due authorization. Please also inform the Committee on what happens to children returned from China, how they are initially processed and how the re-education programmes are in the best interests of the child.

11. Please provide detailed information on the implementation of the Committee's previous recommendations regarding children in street situations (see CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 65) and regarding the arrest and forced institutionalization of such children. Please provide information on the measures taken to raise awareness of and prevent human trafficking and to provide protection and support to child victims of trafficking.

12. Please explain what "public education measures" applicable to children between 14 and 17 years of age in conflict with the law consist of and, in particular, the criteria used by the prosecutor, the procedural guarantees, the type of sanctions and their duration. Please inform the Committee on measures taken to create an independent, child-sensitive and accessible system to process complaints by children against law enforcement personnel.

Part II

13. The Committee invites the State party to provide a brief update (no more than three pages) on the information presented in its report with regard to:

(a) New bills or laws, and their respective regulations, including the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child of 2010 and the Law on General Secondary Education of 2011;

(b) New institutions (and their mandates) or institutional reforms;

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing;

(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments.

Part III

Data, statistics and other information, if available

14. Please provide consolidated information for the past three years on the budget lines regarding children and social sectors by indicating the percentage of each budget line in terms of the total national budget and the gross national product. Please also provide information on the geographic allocation of those resources.

15. Please provide, if available, updated statistical data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, geographic location and socioeconomic status, for the past three years, on the rates of malnutrition.

16. Please provide, if available, updated statistical data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, geographic location and socioeconomic status, for the past three years, on the number of:

(a) Child victims of torture and ill-treatment while in detention, investigations and prosecutions carried out and sentences delivered, and children who received legal aid and physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration services;

(b) Child victims of neglect and abuse, especially in institutions and alternative care settings;

(c) Parents, guardians or staff of care institutions accused, indicted and convicted of child abuse, including sexual abuse;

(d) Child victims of trafficking and the social and psychological services available to them;

(e) Children of non-Korean ethnic origin;

(f) Children in street situations;

(g) Child victims of trafficking and abduction;

(h) Children involved in substance abuse and how many of them have received treatment, recovery and reintegration assistance;

(i) Children repatriated to the State party from neighbouring countries, whether accompanied or unaccompanied;

(j) Children in *kwanliso* (political prison camps) charged of guilt by association.

17. Please provide data disaggregated by age, sex, socioeconomic background, ethnic origin, national origin and geographic location regarding the situation of children deprived of a family environment, for the past three years, on the number of children:

(a) Separated from their parents;

(b) Placed in institutions;

(c) Adopted domestically or through intercountry adoptions.

18. Please provide data, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, ethnic origin, national origin, socioeconomic status and geographic location, for the past three years, on the number of children with disabilities:

(a) Living with their families;

(b) Living in institutions;

(c) Attending regular primary schools;

(d) Attending regular secondary schools;

(e) Attending special schools;

(f) Out of school;

(g) Abandoned by their families.

19. Please provide detailed, disaggregated information, for the past three years, on the number of child rights complaints received by the authorities, including the number that led to investigations and prosecutions and the number and type of convictions applied to perpetrators.

20. Please provide disaggregated data on the number of children in conflict with the law, including children between 14 and 17 years of age, who have been subjected to "public education measures", the sanctions applied and their duration. Please also provide information on the number of children who have had access to legal aid.

21. Please provide the Committee with an update of any data in the report that may have become outdated by more recent data collected or other new developments.

22. In addition, the State party may list areas affecting children that it considers to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

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Corrigendum

Paragraph 1, line 6

For CRC/C/PRK/4 *read* CRC/C/PRK/CO/4.

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List of issues in relation to the fifth periodic report of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Addendum

Replies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the list of issues*

[Date received: 15 June 2017]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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Part I

1. Information on the progress made on developing and implementing a comprehensive policy and strategy to give effect to the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child of 2010, on the progress achieved by the National Programme of Action for the Well Being of Children, its current status and the existence of any new policy or programme of action, information on the introduction of resource tracking from a child rights perspective.

1. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child is being implemented within the framework of the National Plan of Action for the Well Being of Children (2011-2020), in which the requirements of the former are reflected. For the implementation of the National Plan of Action, the Education Commission, Ministry of Public Health and others related to the implementation of the Law formulated their respective strategies and took necessary institutional measures.

2. For the promotion of the health of children such strategies as the Mid-Term Strategic Plan for the Development of the Health Sector in the DPRK (2010-2015), Reproductive Health Strategy (2011-2015), Education Strategy for Reproductive Health (2013-2015), Malaria Control Strategic Plan (2014-2017), Tuberculosis Control Strategic Plan (2014-2017), Action Programme for the Health of Newborns (2015-2016), Strategy for the Expansion of Integrated Management of Child Illness (2005-2020), Strategy and Action Plan to Control Child and Maternal Malnutrition (2014-2018) and Five-Year Plan for the Promotion of Public Health (2016-2020) were implemented or are under implementation.

3. For the provision of quality education to children such strategies as Strategy for the Development of Education in the DPRK (2015-2032), Five-Year Plan for the Improvement of Education (2016-2020) and Action Plan for the Improvement of the Quality of Secondary Education (2017-2020) are under implementation.

4. A Decree on the Introduction of 12-Year Compulsory Education System was adopted at the 6th session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly on September 25, 2012, by which the timeframe of general education was extended from 11 to 12 years. A mid-term review of the implementation of the Decree was conducted at the 2nd session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly on September 26, 2014, with the adoption of the decision on further enhancing the quality of education, reorganizing the general education system to meet the requirements of the developing realities and improving the conditions and environment of education. Implementation of the Decree was again reviewed at the 5th session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly on April 11, 2017, at which a decision was adopted clarifying ways and means for completing the general education system and effecting a radical change in the contents and method of teaching.

5. Major sector-specific goals of the National Plan of Action for the Well Being of Children have been attained.

6. Noticeable improvement has been achieved in the nutrition and health of children. Multi-cluster Survey conducted in 2012 showed significant reduction in the mortality rate and improved nutrition of infants and children under 5. (See Para. 47, Table 9 and 10 of the Report.) Polio has been completely eradicated, not a single measles case occurred since 2007 and incidence of malaria (per 100,000) decreased by two thirds or 63.2 in 2010 to 44 in 2014.

7. Education and material support for encouraging breastfeeding was strengthened, with the result that as of 2015, 11 maternity hospitals were awarded the title of Baby-Friendly Hospital, exclusive breastfeeding rate of infants under 6 months stood at 68.9%. Regular vaccination coverage has been above 90% for all kinds of vaccination since 2007.

8. Significant improvement has been achieved in the nutrition and health of children in baby homes, orphanages and boarding schools. (For measures taken for the nutrition and health care of orphans, see paras. 31, 161 and 179 of the Report.)

9. Education-related goals have been attained at a high level and quality of education improved. Attendance rate was ensured at over 98% at different levels of schools. Intake and enrolment rate at primary and secondary schools were ensured at a high level. (See Tables 3-6 of the Report.) For the improved pre-school education teaching programmes for kindergartens were newly formulated in 2013 so that children could be better equipped to receive primary school education. Computer and foreign language have been successfully taught since 2008 at all primary schools.

10. Medical service system has been expanded for children to access quality medical care. Telemedicine network for obgyn and pediatric purposes, connecting online respectively the maternity hospital in the capital with the provincial maternity hospitals and obgyn sections of municipal and county hospitals, and the children's hospital in the capital with provincial pediatric hospitals and pediatric sections of municipal and county hospitals have been set up, creating conditions for timely and quality medical service accessible and available to all mothers and children. Progress has also been achieved in the expanded and integrated management of child disease and emergency care of pregnancies and newborns. (For further informations see paras. 144-147 of the Report.)

11. For the improved maternal care the period of maternity leave was extended from 150 to 180 days and other legislative and practical measures were taken for the protection of women at work.

12. Special system for disease surveillance has been established at baby homes and orphanages and drug supply system reinforced. Departments of Environmental Hygiene and Child Hygiene have been newly organized at hygienic and anti-epidemic institutes or stations at all levels.

13. In order to provide children with sufficient amount of nutritious foods the role of Institute for Child Nutrition was further enhanced and production bases of children's foodstuffs renovated on modern lines.

14. Conditions and environment were created for the provision of quality education for children. (For legislative and institutional measures taken in this regard see paras. 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17 and 19. For practical measures and progress see paras. 199, 205 and 224).

15. The year 2017 has been designated as a Year of Science and Education with a view to bringing about a new turn in the country's education, with a special emphasis placed on equipping secondary schools with facilities and creating environment as required by the IT age. Removing distinctions between the town and countryside in the level of secondary education has been set as an important goal, and to this end a rural school in south Phyongan province was renovated and refurbished to be a model for all other rural schools to imitate.

16. Technical secondary schools, a new type of secondary school, have opened in 2017, where children are given education specific to the economic and geographical features of the particular region, which will enable them to fully develop their creative abilities and be equipped with at least one modern skill before they make a start in life.

17. For budgetary allocations for children, see Table 2 of the Report and No. 14 of the present Replies.

2. Information on actions taken, and any results thereof, to develop a comprehensive system of data collection on the implementation of the Convention covering all children below 17 years.

18. The existing child-related data collection system has been reinforced through the enhanced responsibility and role of the institutions involved. An official in the Central Statistics Bureau was appointed to be responsible, on a full time basis, for the collection of child-related data from statistics departments of provinces, municipalities and counties.

19. The Central Statistics Bureau, in cooperation with the National Committee for the Implementation of the International Human Rights Instruments (NCIHRI), developed necessary indicators to assess the situation of children and formulated guidelines to be forwarded to the institutions concerned. The indicators thus developed include the total

number of children disaggregated by age, sex, disability, residential area and institutions, as well as budgetary allocations, logistics, nutrition, mortality, morbidity, intake and enrolment rate at schools, number of schools, institutions and health care institutions of all types, etc. These data were reported to the department concerned of the Cabinet and the NCIHRI to be used as basic data for the formulation of the State policy on child protection and strategies and action plans for the implementation thereof.

20. For child population, see Annex Table 1 of the Report, for children with disabilities and at institutions, see No. 17 (b) and No. 18 of the present Replies and for children in street situations and in labour programmes, see No. 9 and 11 of the present Replies.

3. Information on any measures taken with regard to establishing an independent child-friendly monitoring mechanism, such as an ombudsperson for children. Information on how existing procedures to receive complaints from children are independent, confidential, accessible and child-friendly.

21. With the rights of children to complaints and petitions specifically set out in the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child of 2010 and revision of the Law on Complaints and Petitions in 2011 and its implementing regulations in 2016, special attention was directed to complaints and petitions lodged by or related to children (For complaints machinery, see para. 58 of the Report).

22. Complaints departments of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, people's committees, law enforcement institutions and others concerned appointed one of their staff to be responsible for the handling of child-related complaints and petitions. They were required to classify child-related complaints and petitions as Urgent Cases and consider them on a priority basis. A new system was established, under which schools were required to consider child-related complaints and petitions at the consultative meeting of leading officials and submit to the education guidance institution concerned quarterly reports on the results of settlement and the number of cases settled.

23. Issues of ensuring confidentiality in the handling of complaints and petitions are covered by articles 6, 19 and 37 of the Law on Complaints and Petitions and article 39 of the Implementing Regulations. Complaints officers are required not to disclose secrets that came to their knowledge in the course of inquiries. They are also required not to disclose to outsiders the names of complainants and the contents of complaints. They must hold in strict confidence personal secrets of the complainants and the person against whom the complaint was lodged. In case a complainant requests that investigation be conducted without interviewing him/her, such requests are granted. Where the complainant so wishes, his/her name, occupation and place of residence are exempt from registration.

24. In accordance with article 14 of the Law on Complaints and Petitions and article 21 of the Implementing Regulations complaints boxes are installed in the reception or other convenient places, and separate rooms are reserved for interviewing complainants at all institutions, enterprises and organizations. Complaints officers make it a rule to open the box every day for the registration on the very day of letters of complaints found therein.

4. Information on measures taken to guarantee to all children the right to non-discrimination in all aspects, independent of their family situation and social background, and including children of non-Korean parents living in the DPRK.

25. The principle of equality and non-discrimination in the enjoyment by children of their rights to education, health care, rest and leisure, etc. are fully ensured by the law and policy and the socialist system.

26. A series of measures were taken to guarantee to all children the rights set forth in the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child and the Convention. (see paras. 8-18 and 31 for legislative and institutional measures taken in this regard), while directing special attention to the rights of children in vulnerable groups such as orphans, children in remote areas and children with disabilities.

27. The State investment and public concern increased for improving the conditions and environment of nursing, upbringing and educating at baby homes, orphanages and boarding

schools. During June, 2014-May, 2017 all the baby homes, orphanages and boarding schools, 41 in all, were newly built. Boarding schools in particular, with excellent conditions for learning and living, are the models for all other general education institutions in the country both from the pedagogical and hygienic point of view. Orphans here are growing happily under the State and public care to be students of universities or colleges, or to make a start in life in the areas of their choice. The State overhauled the materials supply system to these institutions and ensured that sufficient amount of nutritious foods, clothes, school materials etc. were provided in accordance with the plan.

28. The State ensured that local people's committees make meticulous arrangements for the improved learning and living conditions of children in remote areas, while taking various measures for the good of children of ordinary people. For instance, children of ordinary people were given priority in the selection of participants in the annual national celebrations in honour of June 6, the founding anniversary of the Children's Union. When the northern part of the country was hit by unprecedented heavy floods in September 2016, the State ensured that nurseries, kindergartens, schools and hospitals were built on a priority basis and 1,600 children in the disaster-hit area were sent to the Songdowon International Children's Camp, the best of its kind in the country, to enjoy camping life.

29. Awareness-raising campaigns were conducted with the aim of promoting respect for the dignity of children with disabilities and protecting their rights and interests and encouraging others to render them appropriate support. The media widely disseminated the policy and law of the State on the protection of persons with disabilities, and other information on the promotion of their rights. Media coverage of a teacher who carried a girl with disability on her back to school every day, students who provided moral and material support to their classmate with disability, doctors who devoted themselves to the rehabilitation of children with disabilities and others with laudable deeds contributed to establishing a climate of rendering positive assistance and support to person with disabilities. Provincial people's committees and school supporter organizations were encouraged to provide special schools with school materials, food, and clothes on a priority basis. The State Planning Commission, the ministries of agriculture, fisheries and commerce, and provincial people's committees were required to provide them with nutritious and other foodstuff and daily necessities regularly in accordance with plan.

30. Children of non-Korean parents living in the DPRK are enjoying, in accordance with the Regulations on the Legal Status of Foreigners Residing in the DPRK, the benefits of the State such as free education and medical care on the basis of equality with others. They may choose to go to schools for Korean children or schools for non-Korean children in the capital and local towns. Graduates of these schools proceed to tertiary learning institutions or take jobs according to their wishes and capabilities.

5. Information on the adoption of legislation and other measures prohibiting children from being subjected to torture, establishing appropriate sanctions against perpetrators, and ensuring the physical and psychological recovery of child victims. Information on measures taken to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.

31. It is the basic requirement of the Criminal Procedures Law to guarantee human rights in dealing with and disposing of criminal cases. Law enforcement and judicial institutions are required by law to respect child's dignity while handling juvenile cases and are prohibited from committing acts of forcing the child to admit his offences or leading the statement.

32. In accordance with articles 34 and 171 of the Criminal Procedures Law the process of investigations and preliminary examinations is tape-recorded or video-taped, interrogation of the examinee is conducted with the attendance of a clerk and if need be, two observers, thus preventing investigators and preliminary examiners from committing abuse of power or violations of human rights. In accordance with article 242 of the Criminal Law a law officer who illegally interrogates an individual or fabricates or exaggerates a case is subjected to punishment.

33. Corporal punishment of children at child-related institutions and families are strictly forbidden by articles 26, 42 and 43 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child.

Educational workers, parents and others working for and with children who once thought it was within their rights to apply corporal punishment for the good of children acquired new concept of respect for the child's dignity and adopted new methods of education. Workshop guidelines formulated by the Education Commission on the basis of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, the Convention and the relevant General Comment of the CRC were forwarded to the educational departments of people's committees. Issues concerning corporal punishment such as concept thereof, legal obligations related thereto and alternative methods of education were one of the focus of the workshop for teachers and educational workers annually organized during schoolchildren's vacation. Such practices as disregarding child's dignity, striking, insulting, using abusive language or belittling were brought before the regular school staff meetings or general meeting of teachers in the particular area to be strongly criticized. Parents were informed of their obligations with regard to respect for children's views and not to ignore or disregard them, or commit such acts as abuse, neglect, using insulting language or striking them. They were also informed of the effects of corporal punishment on child's character building and encouraged to share with others parenting experiences and skills. Professionals working for and with children at institutions were encouraged to educate children through influence of good examples and women's union published books for women to refer to in child upbringing.

6. **Information on child care services available to children of unemployed mothers. Information on measures taken to protect children's right to family life, promote foster care, decrease the number of children placed in institutions and to guarantee periodic reviews of placement.**

34. It is stipulated in article 49 of the Socialist Constitution that the State shall maintain all children of preschool age in nurseries and kindergartens at State and public expense, in articles 72 and 73 that citizens shall be entitled to free medical care and education. It is provided in articles 16 and 17 of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children that the State institutions and social cooperative organizations shall provide nurseries and kindergartens with milk, meat, fruit, vegetables, sweets and other foodstuff, the expenses for the food supplied to nursery children and kindergarteners shall be borne by the State and the social cooperative organizations, the State shall ensure that high-quality clothes, shoes, and other goods are produced for children, and their prices are set just as high as to compensate the production costs or even lower, meeting the balance by itself.

35. In accordance with these laws, all the children in the DPRK enjoy, whether their mothers go to work or not, all sorts of benefits from the State such as free medical care and free education. More and more people volunteered to assume the care of orphans in the neighbourhood or institutions. In particular, a girl in her twenties and a factory manager taking care of several orphans with motherly love were widely covered by the media, touching the public to the heart and encouraging them to support them and follow their examples. The State ensured that such families were supplied with provisions on a priority basis and children with school uniforms and materials free of charge. As a result of these measures, increasing number of children are taken from the institutions to families to enjoy parental care and family comforts.

36. For measures taken for periodic review of placement, see paras. 121-123 of the Report.

7. **Information on the measures taken to address the Committee's previous recommendations on abuse and neglect. Information on the applicable legislation criminalizing the sexual abuse of boys.**

37. Measures were taken for the purpose of preventing child abuse through the amending in 2013 of the article 19 of the Criminal Law. While it was formerly stipulated that in case where the victim or the victim's side requests forgiveness for the offender who committed offence against the former's family or relatives, no criminal proceedings shall be taken against the latter unless the offence committed is intentional murder committed brutally, murder committed in a fit of violent anger, unreasonable self-defensive murder, unpremeditated murder, intentional serious injury, robbery and rape, the amended version

contained two other offences, that is, "neglecting of responsibility to protect a child" and "abuse of child".

38. This new measure will contribute to preventing occurrence of such practices, as well as providing legal basis for serious punishment in case such offences are committed. It is also provided in articles 38-43 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child that protection of child's rights in the family are legal obligations of parents.

39. Prosecutors exercise strict supervision over the processes of investigation and preliminary examinations to ensure that no violations of law are committed in the process of investigating or examining children in conflict with the law. For instance prosecutors make regular visits to detention rooms to make sure that they are maintained and operated in accordance with the law and regulations concerned. Where any complaints are lodged by a child in detention concerning conditions of living or other violations of his rights, the prosecutor concerned interviews him in the presence of a clerk and ensures that the complaint is settled within 3 days.

40. Efforts were made to increase obedience by citizens to law through mass media and education system of law observance. For instance, judicial workers conducted dissemination of law in the areas under their control and formulated law education materials to be used by child-related institutions. In particular, education materials formulated by the Central Court targeting school teachers concerning their role in preventing juvenile crime through conduct of various forms of age- and psychology-appropriate education had a good effect. Emphasis was also placed on education in law observance by professionals at child-related institutions, law enforcement officials and parents in particular with a view to increasing their sense of responsibility for the protection of the rights of the child.

41. Very few cases of sexual delinquencies committed by boys are punished in accordance with article 279 (Rape), article 281 (Having Sexual Intercourse with a Minor) and article 246 (Wanton Delinquencies) of the Criminal Law.

8. Information on whether the 20-hour class allotted for field practice are weekly, monthly or per school year and the measures taken to ensure that school staff or State officials do not require students to carry out additional lab our activities. Information on how human rights education and the rights of the child have been integrated into the school curricula at the primary and secondary levels.

42. Three weeks per every school year of the senior secondary schools are allotted for field practice with the aim of helping students put theory into practice and thus acquire extensive knowledge of nature and society. Students plant trees, cultivate crops and help farmers with their work. Learning first-hand how the theory works in practice and what it means to love their country.

43. It is prohibited by law to require students to do labour beyond the curricula. A directive was issued by the Cabinet in April, 2016 to the effect that people's committees at provincial, municipal and county levels and law enforcement institutions should exercise strict supervision and regulation of the implementation by schools of educational programmes and provision of educational conditions. The State, in order to ensure strict implementation of teaching programmes, adopted on 24 June 2016 the Law on the Implementation of Teaching Programmes.

44. For measures taken for human rights education see paras. 211 and 212.

9. Information on the implementation of the Committee's previous recommendations regarding child labour. Information on the measures taken to respect the right to rest and leisure of all children.

45. Child labour is prohibited by the law in the DPRK.

46. It is provided in article 15 of the Socialist Labour Law that "The State shall prohibit the labour of those under working age.", in article 3 of the Labour Regulations for Foreign-Invested Businesses in the Rason Economic and Trade Zone that "No one shall employ minors under working age." and in article 191 of the Criminal Law that "A person who gets

a minor to work shall be committed to disciplining through labour of not more than one year."

47. The Law on the Implementation of Teaching Programmes adopted in 2016 provides that implementing teaching programmes is the legal obligation of educational institutions (article 4), educational institutions shall not organize productive labour other than those specified in the teaching programme nor mobilize teachers and students to perform work that are not reflected in the teaching programme (article 33) and those who failed to make proper arrangements for the implementing of teaching programmes shall be subjected to administrative or criminal punishment. This Law provided legal guarantee for establishing rigid discipline for the implementing of teaching programmes and carrying out educational work in strict accordance with the teaching programmes.

48. Labour brigades are the voluntary organizations of young people who wish to achieve feats of labour through participation in construction projects that are of significance in the country's economic development and improving of people's living. Membership thereof is open only to those who have graduated secondary schools. As the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child defined a child as a person up to the age of sixteen and all the children under this age must finish compulsory schooling before they can start a new course of life in the areas of their choice, members of the labour brigades, that is, graduates from schools, do not belong to the category of children.

49. A series of practical measures were taken for the respect of the rights of children to rest and leisure activities. For instance, Children's Dream Hall was set up in the Sci-Tech Complex, which was inaugurated in January, 2016 as a multifunctional base for social education and a hub of disseminating the latest science and technology, creating environment for children in the IT age to develop their intellectual faculties to the greatest extent possible and to be trained into talents with creative capabilities. The Central Zoo was splendidly renovated as a base for children's cultural and leisure activities and the Nature Museum was built to help children have extensive knowledge of nature. For further information in this regard see paras. 217-226 of the Report.

10. Information on the implementation of the Committee's previous recommendations regarding children in street situations. Information on the measures taken to raise awareness and prevent human trafficking and provide protection and support to child victims of trafficking.

50. Some children illegally crossed the border, accompanied or unaccompanied, at the instigation of some hostile elements or as a victim of plots masterminded by hostile forces. In this case adult returnees who accompanied the children were subjected to due punishments after considering the motive and purpose of the illegal acts but no punishment was applied to children. People's security officers conducted education of the child returnees in a way best suited to their age and psychological peculiarities, increased their awareness of requirements of the laws such as the Immigration Law and the Criminal Law. The schools concerned, in cooperation with their parents, paid special attention to ensure that the child returnees settle down to their school life. For instance, the nine children who were brought back home while being abducted as a result of the maneuverings of the south Korean authorities finished Kumsong Secondary School No.1 and Hyesan Secondary School No. 1 and are now learning at the Pyongyang University of Architecture and Hamhung University of Education.

11. Information on the implementation of the Committee's previous recommendations regarding children in street situations and on measures taken to raise awareness and prevent human trafficking and provide protection and support to child victims of trafficking.

51. The issue of street children developed in the 1990s, when the country was undergoing unprecedented hardships and economic difficulties due to the moves of the hostile forces to isolate and stifle the DPRK, successive natural disasters and dissolution of the socialist market. However, as a result of the positive measures taken by the State to bring the economy back on its normal track, people's living was stabilized. Since 2009,

when the DPRK had its 3rd-4th periodic report reviewed, the number of street children has dwindled, and now it is almost hard to find them.

52. Very few children who are found wandering streets on account of death of both parents, disharmony with stepparents and loss of home in disaster-stricken areas are taken to the relief agencies operated by the people's committees concerned and then returned to those capable of looking after them or to the institutions. As was stated in paras. 31 and 32 of the Report, special measures were taken by the State for the upbringing and education of children without parental care, with the result that all such children are leading a happy life at baby homes, orphanages and boarding schools.

53. Human trafficking is inconceivable in the DPRK. However, abducting and trafficking of children in the northern part of the country were persistently committed by the South Korean authorities in their desperate moves to tarnish the image of the DPRK. A case in point is the attempted abduction in May 2015 of two children, one six-year- old and the other nine-year-old, appalling the whole world as a flagrant violation of human rights and crime against humanity. For legislative measures taken in this regard, see para.115 of the Report.

54. The DPRK, having analyzed the cause of the abduction cases and the actual realities, took a series of measures for strengthening international cooperation in combating crimes. It concluded with China the Treaty on Legal Assistance in Civil and Criminal Matters on 19 November, 2003, with Russia Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Treaty on Extradition of Criminals on 17 November, 2015 and with several other countries treaties on mutual legal assistance. It acceded to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime on 16 June, 2016. On the basis of these treaties the Ministry of People's Security and other competent institutions concluded agreements on mutual assistance with law enforcement organs in the neighbouring countries, thereby creating conditions to combat abduction and other crimes at the international level.

12. Explanation on public education measures applicable to children between 14 and 17 in conflict with the law. Information on measures taken to create an independent child-sensitive and accessible system to process complaints by children against law enforcement personnel.

55. Social education is a correctional measure that is based on the fundamental principles in combating crimes provided in the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedures Law, which read: "In dealing with criminals the State shall apply legal sanctions with main stress on social education." and "The State shall, in the fight against ordinary crimes, lay the main stress on social education, combining it properly with legal sanctions."

56. This measure is a reflection of the criminal policy of the State that stresses correction rather than punishment and takes into full consideration the future of children in conflict with the law. In other words, social education is a correctional measure, by which an offender, having committed an offence deserving criminal punishment, is not subjected to punishment because he/she is a minor or in the case of an adult, he/she sincerely repents of the crime he/she has committed or the offence is of low punishable degree. The offender is then released, with a certain period of time set for his/her correction. If he/she does not commit any more crime in the given period of time, no criminal proceedings are instituted against him/her.

57. Social education measure applies in strict accordance with the procedures specified in articles 115 through 122 of the Criminal Procedures Law. A prosecutor may make a decision on correction of the examinee through social education subject to the approval of a higher prosecutor's office. The court of first instance may pass a ruling on reformation of the accused through social education, while the court of second instance and extraordinary appeal may pass an award in that regard. For further information on social education, see paras. 232 and 234 of the Report.

Part II

13. Brief update on the information presented in the Report with regard to:

(a) New bills or laws, and their respective regulations;

58. The Teachers Law was adopted by Decree No.708 of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly on 8 October, 2015, the Law on the Implementation of Teaching Programmes on 24 June, 2016 and a bill is being prepared to regulate matters concerning vocational education.

59. Implementing Regulations of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, the Law on General Education and the Law on Implementation of Teaching Programmes were adopted respectively in September 2011, December 2011, and September 2016.

60. Regulations on Primary, Junior and Senior Secondary Schools, Schools for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and Orphanages were revised respectively in February, March and May 2016.

61. Cabinet Directive was issued in June 2016 for the establishment and operation of secondary schools of technology.

(b) New institutions (and their mandates) or institutional reforms;

62. Department for Institutions was created in the Ministry of Public Health, whose mandate is to provide guidance and regulation of the health work at the baby homes, orphanages and boarding schools.

63. Nursing Section was created in the Institute of Public Health Administration with a mandate to conduct research for the improved nursing at baby homes and nurseries and provide academic assistance to the Department for Institutions in its work.

64. Department for Institutions was created in the Ministry of General Education, with a mandate to provide specialized guidance to the education of orphans.

65. Management Bureau of Educational Apparatus and Materials in the Education Commission was upgraded to be a special class unit. Its mandate is to ensure timely production and provision of textbooks, school materials and teaching aids, thus contributing to the enhancing of quality of education.

66. The Academy of Education was upgraded to be a special class unit merging the Institute of Higher Education, and the Institutes of Teacher Training and Experimental Apparatus that were formerly affiliated to different units, whose mandate is to conduct in a unified way research of theoretical and practical problems arising in the educational work.

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing;

67. Five-Year Plan for the Promotion of Public Health (2016-2020) is under implementation, with the aim of bringing major health indices such as average life expectancy, infant mortality rate and rate of assisted delivery into line with those of the world's most advanced countries.

68. Strategy for the Expansion of Integrated Management of Child Disease (2005-2020) is under implementation, with the result that during the reporting period establishment of integrated management system of child disease has been completed in 11 provinces and municipalities and 118 counties.

69. Five-Year Plan for the Improvement of Education (2016-2020) and Action Plan for the Improvement of the Quality of Secondary Education (2017-2020) are under implementation.

70. A separate Homepage of Boarding Schools was opened in the national network, creating conditions for them to share experiences gained in education of orphans and operation of schools.

71. Intranet of Baby Homes was launched centring on the Department for Institutions under the Ministry of Public Health and the Nursing Section of the Institute of Public Health Administration for the purpose of helping share experiences gained in the nursing of children at baby homes.

(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments.

72. The DPRK ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 23 November, 2016.

Part III

14. Information for the past three years on the budget lines regarding children.

73. In 2014, 2015 and 2016 budgetary allocations for public health are respectively 6.4%, 6.4% and 6.4% and for education 8.4%, 8.5% and 8.6%.

15. Statistical data for the past three years on the rates of malnutrition.

74. For rate of malnutrition see Annex Table 9: Results of Nutritional and Health Survey.

75. According to Multi-Cluster Survey conducted in 2014 underweight at birth stood at 4.74%.

16. Statistical data for the past three years on the number of:

(a) Child victims of torture and ill-treatment while in detention, investigations and prosecutions carried out and sentences delivered and children who received legal aid and physical and psychological recovery and social re-integration services;

76. As children in conflict with the law are subjected to social education, there are no children in reform institutions.

77. There were no reports of children subjected to torture or ill-treatment. Hence no investigations and prosecutions carried out and no sentences delivered.

78. As social education is a community-based correctional measure, children in conflict with the law are not separated from society. Hence, no need for social re-integration services.

(b) Child victims of neglect and abuse, especially in institutions and alternative care settings;

79. Six children in the institutions were subjected to neglect and abuse.

(c) Parents, guardians or staff of care institutions accused, indicted and convicted of child abuse;

80. Six persons in the institutions were subjected to criminal punishment for abusing children.

(d) Child victims of trafficking and the social and psychological services available to them;

81. See No. 11 of the present Replies.

(e) Children of non-Korean ethnic origin;

82. There are 200 students at schools for Chinese children.

(f) Children in street situations;

83. See No. 11 of the present Replies.

(g) Child victims of trafficking and abduction;

84. See No. 10 of the present Replies.

(h) Children involved in substance abuse;

85. None.

(i) Children repatriated from neighboring countries;

86. Forty-eight children were repatriated.

(j) Children in political prison camps;

87. There is no such thing as political prison camp.

17. Data regarding the children deprived of a family environment.

(a) Children separated from their parents;

88. There is no child separated from both parents as:

(a) When, in very rare cases, both parents have to serve sentences for committing serious offences, the mother of a child is, in the best interest of the child, granted a suspension of sentence or social education measure; and

(b) When a couple gets a divorce, the child is placed under custody of one of the parties, in most cases woman.

89. Children deprived of family environment due to parental deaths or in the aftermath of disasters are taken into care by institutions. (See No. 11 and b) below for further information.)

(b) Children placed in institutions;

90. There are 2,998 children at baby homes, 1,902 at orphanages, 1,837 at junior secondary boarding schools and 10,043 at senior secondary boarding schools.

(c) Children adopted domestically;

91. There are 736 children adopted.

18. Data on the number of children with disabilities:

- Total number of children with disabilities: 34,171
- Number of children going to school: 33,013
- Number of students at boarding schools: 1,144
- Number of children not going to school: 1,158
- Number by type of disability of children with:
    - visual impairments: 6,383
    - hearing impairments: 7,518
    - speech impairments: 2,272
    - physical impairments: 9,563
    - intellectual impairments: 6,042
    - mental impairments: 2,393

19. Information on the number of child complaints received by authorities, including the number that led to investigations and prosecutions and the number and type of convictions applied to perpetrators.

92. There were a total of 91 cases of complaints brought before the Education Commission, Ministry of Public Health and the Court. In case the subjects of complaints were not of very serious nature, the persons against whom the complaints were lodged were subjected to criticism at the meetings of the school staff or the educational workers in the area concerned. In serious cases such administrative punishments as suspension of license, deprivation of license, demotion or dismissal were applied.

93. One criminal case is pending before the Central Court.

20. Data on the number of children in conflict with the law, including children between 14 and 17 who were subjected to "social education measures".

94. There were 13 children subjected to social education.

95. (For further information in this regard, see No. 12 of the present Replies and para. 234 of the Report.)

21. Update of any data in the Report that may have been outdated by more recent data.

96. See No. 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 18 of the present Replies.

22. Areas affecting children that are considered to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

97. One of the priorities is to satisfy the demand for medicines for the treatment of child disease. Given that management system of child disease has been established at pediatric hospitals at different levels, production and supply of medicines on a sustainable basis poses as an important issue. The other is to create sufficient material and technical conditions for the improvement of the quality of education. With the introduction of a new teaching programme under the 12-year education system, sufficient amount of computers, overhead projectors and other educational apparatus need to be supplied to be used by teachers in enhancing their qualifications and students in classes.